

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1, 2, and 9 stand rejected. Claim 9 is canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1 and 10 are independent claims.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Dee et al. (U.S. 6,690,864 B1) (“Dee”).

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant, however, wishes to defer amending claim 3 to an independent claim and defer incorporating all features recited in its base and intervening claim. Instead, applicant wishes to submit an amendment to claim 1 which enables the claim to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, recites “a sliding table mounted on the lower plate **capable of a horizontal displacement** on the lower plate; ... a jig for holding the optical fiber block, disposed on the upper plate and fixed to rotational means capable of rotation about an axis being **perpendicular to the displacement of the sliding table**...”

Support for such amendment can be found at page 9, line 12-16.

As noted in the claim, the sliding table moves about horizontal orientation. Accordingly, a jig capable of rotation about an axis perpendicular to the displacement of the sliding table is capable of rotating about y-axis, a vertical axis. The jig’s rotation about y-axis or vertical axis is also supported by the definition of the term “perpendicular.” The term “perpendicular” is defined as (1) “vertical” and/or (2) “meeting a given line or surface at right angle” (Webster’s College Dictionary, 1006 [1991]).

Applicant submits that nowhere in Dee is there a jig capable of rotation about a vertical axis. On the contrary, Dee discloses that its **jig is capable of rotation about z axis**, a horizontal axis. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Dee.

Claim 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bourcier et al. (U.S. 6,571,041 B2) (“Bourcier”).

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 10-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, applicant has amended claim 9 to incorporate all features of claim 10. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests early passage of the amended claim 9 and all other claims that depend on claim 9.

With regards to other claims they are dependent on claims 1 and 9 and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since these claims define additional aspects of the invention, however, consideration of the patentability of the claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

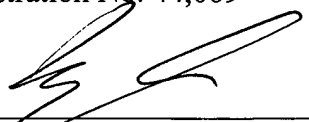
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application and notice to that effect are respectfully solicited.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/650,574

If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to kindly telephone the undersigned telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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 6/10/05
(Signature and Date)